

Given a biographical sketch, the reader draws conclusions about the subject's interests and concerns.

UNIT 1
Lesson 1
Drawing Conclusions

TECHNICAL TALK

People are complicated. There is no question about that. But you can usually tell how a person will react to or think about something if you know him or her. In reading stories about people this is important. If the author tells you enough about a person, you should be able to draw conclusions about that person and predict his or her future actions.

TRY IT

Some of the incidents in Harriet Tubman's life are described below. Read the selection carefully and then mark the conclusions you might draw about her beliefs.

HARRIET, CALLED MOSES

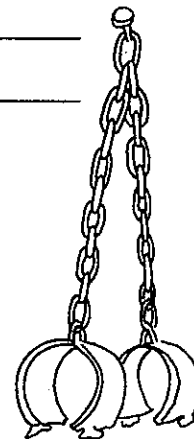
Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849. She was about 30 years old. Nobody knows her exact age because her birthday was never recorded. By that time she had dreams of helping other black people escape from slavery. She moved to Philadelphia and started secret trips back to Baltimore. On her first trip in 1850 she led her sister and two children to freedom. Later, she took out her brother and his family. She went back again and brought out 11 more people, including another brother and his family. She finally brought her aged parents out of the South in a wagon she had rented. It is believed she helped between 60 and 300 people escape from slavery.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman worked in Federal hospitals and as a spy. She got information from the black people who were still slaves behind the Southern lines. She did not get paid for this work, so she earned money by selling chickens and eggs. After the war she continued her work as a humanitarian by opening a home for old people and children who needed her help. She was sometimes called the "the Moses of her people."

After reading about Harriet Tubman, which of these statements seem to be true and which seem to be false about her?

1. Harriet Tubman thought earning money was more important than doing the right thing.

2. She had to be very cool-headed and lucky to free so many people single-handedly. _____
3. Harriet Tubman was born a slave. _____
4. Harriet Tubman thought slavery was all right as long as her own family was free. _____
5. If Harriet Tubman were alive today, she would probably be working to help people. _____

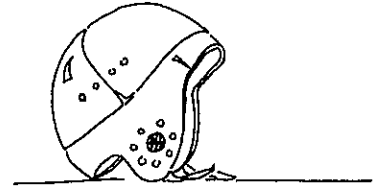


REVIEW

UNIT 1 Lesson 2 Drawing Conclusions

If you marked statements numbered 1 and 4 false, you are right. From what Harriet Tubman did during her life we could draw the conclusion that the other statements are right. The story about her work shows she helped others, even without pay. She escaped from slavery so it might be safe to say she was born a slave. She was not just interested in saving her own family, and she would have to be very smart, cool-headed, and probably lucky to save so many from slavery.

Now read the following selection about Jim Thorpe and see what conclusions you can draw from your reading.



Leather helmet like the one Jim Thorpe wore.

JIM THORPE—GREATEST ATHLETE IN THE WORLD

Jim Thorpe was probably the greatest male athlete America ever produced and, after his triumph at the 1912 Olympics, was called "the greatest athlete in the world."

Named Bright Path by his mother, a Sac Indian, Thorpe entered the Carlisle Indian School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1907. It was there that he met Glenn (Pop) Warner, Carlisle's coach, who recognized Thorpe's abilities as a natural athlete and who encouraged him to develop those abilities. Thorpe led Carlisle's football team to victories over the then powerful teams of schools like Army, Harvard, and Penn. At the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden, he won gold medals in both the decathlon and the pentathlon, something that no one had ever done before. However, because Thorpe had played semi-pro baseball during the summers of 1909 and 1910, he was forced to surrender his Olympic medals in 1913.

While Thorpe went on to play both football and baseball professionally, he never achieved great success and spent many years doing a variety of small jobs including that of a movie stunt man. In 1950, a poll named him the outstanding American athlete of the twentieth century. He died in 1953, and twenty years later, his amateur status was reinstated and his Olympic medals "returned."

Which of these statements are probably true and which are probably false about Jim Thorpe?

1. He could probably play almost any athletic game and be good at it. _____
2. He was not bothered much by the loss of his Olympic medals. _____
3. Thorpe was good at lots of things besides sports. _____
4. He was not respected as an athlete. _____
5. After he left sports, Thorpe may have been unhappy in later life. _____

Read this selection about Eleanor Roosevelt and mark the statements below it true or false.

UNIT 1
Lesson 3
Drawing Conclusions



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT—CHAMPION OF THE PEOPLE

When the average American needs something from the government, who will help? During the time when Franklin Roosevelt was President of the United States, one person who helped was his wife, Eleanor.

As a child, Eleanor led a strange life. Her uncle was Teddy Roosevelt, President of the United States. Her father was Elliott Roosevelt. He was a person of some importance, but he was also an alcoholic. Some people thought Eleanor was not pretty, and her mother was embarrassed by her looks. She went to live with her grandmother. By the time she was ten, her father, mother, and older brother had all died.

She went to school in England and came home to start social work in New York. She married Franklin in 1905. They had six children by 1916. Then, in 1921, Franklin was stricken with polio and could never walk again. Eleanor nursed him back to health and helped him to be elected President in 1932.

During the time her husband was President, Eleanor Roosevelt worked to help common people. She listened especially to the needs of working women, blacks, and young people. Then she worked to help them. Hard times made living difficult for these people, and she tried to help. During World War II, she went to Europe and the Pacific. She visited soldiers there and helped with the Red Cross organization. Even after her husband died in 1945 she continued to work for the common people and world peace.

1. Eleanor Roosevelt was a very happy child. _____
2. Eleanor thought it was important to help other people. _____
3. Eleanor thought a physical handicap should keep her husband from doing what he wanted to do.

4. She was a very bright person. _____
5. Eleanor did not know much about children. _____

HOW DID YOU DO?

